

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 15295 140659Z

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ACTION AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5217

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15295

DEPT PASS TO AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: EVALUATION AAFLI PROJECTS

REFS: (A) STATE 243011; (B) NEW DELHI 14978

1. AS REPORTED REF (B) THE INTUC HAS INDICATED THAT AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING IT DOES NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AAFLI PROGRAM. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT AAFLI NOT ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT PROGRAMS IN INDIA WITH OTHER LABOR ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS HMS AND NON-AFFILIATED UNIONS, AND THAT THE AFL-CIO SHOULD MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE INDIAN LABOR MOVEMENT OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF AAFLI. ACCORDINGLY, SINCE WE DO NOT ENVISAGE AN AAFLI PROGRAM IN INDIA FOR SOME TIME, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY THE VISIT OF AN AAFLI EVALUATION TEAM TO INDIA AT THIS TIME. AN AID TEAM (ALBEIT WITH AAFLI PARTICIPATION) WOULD ONLY INCREASE INTUC ANXIETIES CONCERNING WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE THE QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL CHARACTER OF AAFLI.

2. INDIAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, HMS AS WELL AS INTUC, DO NOT NOW ACCEPT AAFLI SIMPLY AS THE AFL-CIO'S ALTER EGO ESTABLISHED TO CONDUCT LABOR PROGRAMS IN ASIA. THEY APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT AAFLI'S USE OF USG FUNDS IMPLIES A DEGREE OF USG CONTROL WHICH THE INDIANS BELIEVE IS INCONSISTENT

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QWTH UNION-TO-UNION RELATIONS. THE PROCESS OF EDUCATING

THE INDIANS CONCERNING THE SPECIAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN AAFLI AND AID BY WHICH AAFLI'S INDEPENDENT STATUS IS MAINTAINED WILL BE A SLOW AND UNCERTAIN ONE WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED/BY PROGRESS IN USG-GOI RELATIONS. WE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT NEITHER THE INTUC NOR THE HMS HAVE ANY RESERVATIONS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH THE AFL-CIO AND SEEK TO MAKE THEM CLOSER.

3. REFERENCE PARA 9 REF (A), THE LABOR CONSELOR, STEPHEN M. BLOCK, IS THE MISSION'S LIAISON OFFICER WITH AAFLI. USAID DIRECTOR (ACTING), KEVIN F. O'DONNELL, SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT AAFLI PLANS AND ACTIVITIES IN INDIA. MOYNIHAN

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